



# Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** CMAP Board & MPO Policy Committee

**Date:** June 10, 2009

**From:** CMAP Staff

**Re:** American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Implementation

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The following is a brief description of the non-transportation elements of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) that CMAP is assisting in coordinating or implementation.

### **Regional ARRA Coordinating Council**

The Chicago Community Trust and CMAP have recently partnered with leadership organizations in housing, workforce and the environment to explore creating effective regional strategies for leveraging and maximizing ARRA program dollars. This group is working to develop targeted strategies for linking housing, energy/weatherization and jobs together. The group intends to create a strategy to assist in building initiatives that could maximize ARRA resources throughout the region. Partners in this initiative include: The Center for Neighborhood Technology, Metropolitan Planning Council, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, Chicago Jobs Council, Grand Victoria Foundation, Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County (CEDA), and Housing Action Illinois. For more information, please contact Lee Deuben at (312)386-8623 or [ldeuben@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:ldeuben@cmap.illinois.gov) or Annie Byrne at (312) 386-8786 or [abyrne@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:abyrne@cmap.illinois.gov).

### **ARRA Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 (NSP 2) Technical Assistance**

The Chicago Regional and Local Technical Assistance Consortium (CRLTAC) – the Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC), the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (MMC), Housing Action Illinois (HAI) and the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) - have developed a consortia and regional strategy for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program Technical Assistance funds. The consortia has extensive recent experience with the NSP program and the provision of technical assistance, both as independent organizations and as partners who have worked together on a number of innovations and successful initiatives. Since the inception of the NSP program, the partners have created an NSP Coordinating Council which has produced strong relationships among CRLTAC partners, NSP recipients and local HUD staff, and is a vehicle for identifying and

responding to the needs of NSP recipients. CRLTAC intends to deploy NSP-TA funds to build on the ongoing efforts of this already established network.

### **ARRA Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 (NSP 2) Program Funds**

CMAP is taking the lead on a regional application and strategy for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 funds as part of ARRA. CMAP has formed a consortium of local governments and non-profits who will be building a regional strategy for deployment of NSP 2 funds. These funds are directed to stabilize neighborhoods whose viability has been and continues to be damaged by the economic effects of foreclosed and abandoned properties. A regional plan will make northeastern Illinois more competitive for NSP 2 dollars (which is a nationally competitive grant) and will allow the region to create efficiencies and build economies of scale when implementing the program. While CMAP will be the lead agency when applying for NSP 2 funds, program implementation will happen at the local level including, but not limited to recipients and sub-recipients from the first Neighborhood Stabilization Program. For more information, please contact Lee Deuben at (312)386-8623 or [ldeuben@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:ldeuben@cmap.illinois.gov).

### **ARRA Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Workshop Recap**

On June 3, 2009 CMAP co-hosted an event for direct recipients of the ARRA Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG) along with the State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT), and the Chicago Community Loan Fund. The main purpose of the event was to help recipients of the grants better understand the technicalities and requirements of the grant applications, as well as how to leverage funds and include strategies which provide the greatest economic and environmental impact. Several key themes emerged throughout the day, including using EECBG funds in combination with existing programs and other funding sources, and taking advantage of the technical support and resources available. The presentations along with a brief description are provided in an online PDF <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/uploadedFiles/blog/files/Summary%20of%20the%20day%20and%20presentations.pdf?n=6662>. For more information, please contact Annie Byrne at (312) 386-8786 or [abyrne@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:abyrne@cmap.illinois.gov).

### **ARRA Watershed Planning**

Using funding from Illinois EPA under Clean Water Act Section 604(b), as authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, CMAP is providing assistance for four watershed planning or monitoring projects in northeastern Illinois: (1) watershed planning in Hickory Creek, (2) watershed planning in the Lower DuPage watershed, conducted by the Conservation Foundation, (3) monitoring in the Fox River, conducted by the Fox River Study Group, and (4) monitoring on the Kishwaukee River, carried out by a consultant to CMAP. About half of the funding passes through to other organizations. CMAP's responsibilities include guiding plan development by advising the project teams, helping develop consultant scopes of work, attending stakeholder meetings, reviewing plan documents, and administering the grant. For more information, please contact Jesse Elam at (312)386-8688 or [jelam@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:jelam@cmap.illinois.gov).